

Semi-colons and Colons

Raise your writing
grade

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Aims

- To improve writing by learning how to use the semi-colon
- To improve writing by learning how to use the colon

What is a semi-colon?

- A small piece of punctuation that looks like this

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Why is it used?

1. To separate two clauses of a sentence when they are closely related
2. To separate items in a list when the items are long phrases and to use a comma might lead to ambiguity


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Two connected clauses joined together

- Elephants live in hot countries. They cool off by bathing.
- Technology at Bath High School is a real success. The computers are top quality.



Two connected clauses joined together

- Elephants live in hot countries; they cool off by bathing.
- Technology at Bath High School is a real success; the equipment is top quality.

Long items in a list

- Bath High School is great for many things. This includes the quality of the teaching. Also, its success is due to the excellence of the buildings and the wonderful cafeterias and the intelligence and helpfulness of the pupils.

Long items in a list

- Bath High School is great for many things: the quality of the teaching, especially in English; the excellence of the buildings; the wonderful cafeterias, serving an array of healthy food; the intelligence and helpfulness of the pupils.

Task

- Write 3 sentences using a semi-colon to join two connected clauses
- Write 2 sentences using a semi-colon to separate long items in a list
- Remember to use semi-colons in all your own writing

What is a colon?

- A part of your stomach
- A punctuation mark that looks like this

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What are its uses?

1. To introduce a quotation or list
2. To add emphasis to a point by putting it on its own

To introduce a quotation or list


- In scene 5, Romeo states
“Juliet, I love you”
- There are many ways to make money,
such as sell your kidney, rob a bank,
invent something amazing, etc.

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- In scene 5, Romeo states:
“Juliet, I love you”
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sell your kidney, rob a bank, invent
something amazing, etc.

To isolate a point for emphasis

- There's only one word I
can use to describe
that. Fabulous.



To isolate a point for
emphasis

● There's only one word I
can use to describe
that: fabulous.